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DATE 05-20-2009 BY 60322 UCLP/PLJ/JN

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# Tells Lightfoot Order to Reds: Go Into Hiding

BY NORMAN GLUBOK

More inside information about operations of the Communist party here was disclosed today by another surprise witness for the government.

The witness, Lola-Belle Holmes, 38, of 6116 Kimbark av., in

testifying at a hearing before the subversive activities control board in the United States Custom house, told how Claude Lightfoot ordered the party in Illinois to "submerge and be an iceberg" in 1961.

Miss Holmes, a garment worker, also testified that she joined six communist organizations here while posing as a party member but actually operating as an undercover agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

## Ordered to Register

The hearing was called on the petition of the attorney general of the United States ordering Lightfoot, 52, to register as a member of a communist action group.

Lightfoot, who lives at 3443 W. 12th pl., has been identified by other witnesses as national vice chairman of the Communist party.

Miss Holmes testified that at a meeting of top Illinois party leaders here in June, 1961, Lightfoot reported on a New York meeting called a few days before by the communist national executive committee.

## Outlined Strategy

Miss Holmes said Lightfoot explained the New York meeting was held to determine the

strategy to be used in view of the action of the United States Supreme court which, that month, upheld the 2950 law calling for the registration of Communists as agents of a foreign power.

Miss Holmes quoted Lightfoot as saying:

"The party [in Illinois] will not be liquidated. We would submerge and be an iceberg, with only the leadership remaining [visible at the top]."

Miss Holmes testified:

"He told us that as of that night our state board would disband and be supplanted by an 8-member committee that included himself. I asked him if the Supreme court action had caused the arrest of any of our people, and he answered: 'It would take several years to find the board, and by that time we'd all be dead.'"

## He's Not Surprised

About six of his comrades at the hearing gasped at this testimony, but Lightfoot, during a recess, said:

"I really wasn't to surprised because I know her character."

But Lightfoot was shocked yesterday when Lucius Armstrong, a retired steel worker, walked into the hearing room to testify that he had been an undercover FBI agent here for 32 years.

Armstrong still was a "Communist" up to that moment, and Miss Holmes was today, and

Lightfoot, visibly shocked by the unmasking of Armstrong, muttered:

"Well, I'll be damned. That man was like a brother to me!"

Miss Holmes named the six Chicago organizations whose activities she reported to the FBI as:

The Negro-American Labor council, for which she was a national vice president; the Chicago Council of Social Science; the Modern Book store the Women Strike for Peace; the Midwest Committee for the Protection of the Foreign-born, and the Afro-American Heritage association.

## Became Top Official

Miss Holmes also testified that in December, 1959, she attended the party's national convention in New York as an alternate delegate, and rose to become a member of the Illinois party's state board and state committee.

Under cross-examination by Lightfoot's attorney, Joseph Forer of Washington, Miss Holmes acknowledged she had voted for Lightfoot to head the Illinois Communists and, at a state caucus in 1959, had helped nominate him to the national committee.

Forer asked Miss Holmes if she ever identified herself to party members as an FBI spy, or if she ever urged any members to register. She replied:

"Of course not. I was supposed to be a Communist. You know—when in Rome."

If Lightfoot is ordered by the board to register and he does not, he can be sentenced to 5 years in prison for each day he remains unregistered.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

3 CHICAGO TRIBUNE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Date: January 24, 1963  
Edition: Diamond Final  
Author:  
Editor: JAMES O'NEILL  
Title: LUCIUS ARMSTRONG;  
Character:  
or  
Classification: 15-067  
Submitting Office: CHICAGO

NOT RECORDED

JAN 28 1963

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## Lightfoot's Red Role In '62 Told

The government Thursday put another surprise witness on the stand against Claude Mack Lightfoot, former head of the Communist Party in Illinois.

Miss Lola Belle Holmes, of 6116 S. Kimbark, revealing herself as an FBI informant, testified that Lightfoot had been active in the Communist Party until last month.

Friends of Lightfoot cried out in dismay, "Lola Belle! Lola Belle!" when Miss Holmes, wearing sunglasses, walked into the hearing room of the U.S. Subversive Activities Control Board.

**THE HEARING** is to determine if Lightfoot should be required to register as a Com-



LIGHTFOOT

munist under the Internal Security Act.

Miss Holmes testified that she met with Lightfoot and other Illinois party leaders in June, 1961, after the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the registration act. She quoted Lightfoot as assuring the party members:

**"Everything will remain the same. The Communist Party will not disband. We will submerge like an iceberg but we will not crack."**

Miss Holmes said Lightfoot announced at that time that the party would change its name to Press Committees.

\* \* \*

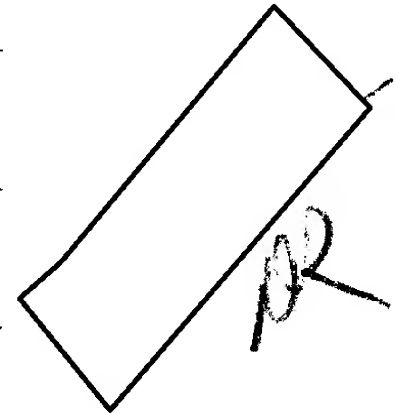
**UNDER** cross-examination, Miss Holmes said the FBI has paid her up to \$200 a month since early 1956 for spying on the Communists.

She added that she reported to the FBI on Communist activities in several organizations, among them the Negro American Labor Council, the Chicago School of Social Science and Women Strike for Peace.

"The witness and the FBI have gone too far!" objected Lightfoot's attorney, Joseph Forer. "It is difficult for me to control my indignation."

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)



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14 CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Date: January 24, 1963

Edition: Red Street

Author:

Editor: JOHN J. PATRICK

Title:

Lightfoot, Claude Mack

Character:

or

Classification: 61-217

Submitting Office: CHICAGO

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50 JAN 28 1963



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Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

## 3d Undercover Agent Heard In Lightfoot Case

A third FBI undercover agent who had posed as a Communist testified here Thursday against Claude M. Lightfoot.

She is Lola-Belle Holmes, 38, of 6116 S. Kimbark.

Miss Holmes appeared before the Subversive Activities Control Board in hearings conducted at the U.S. Customs Building by Francis E. Cherry, former governor of Arkansas.

The board is seeking to determine whether Lightfoot should be compelled to register as an agent of the Communist Party. The government is trying to establish that he is Illinois leader of the party and a member of the party's national board.

Miss Holmes, a garment worker, testified that she was an alternate delegate to the national Communist Party convention held in New York in 1959. In that capacity, she said, she attended a caucus of Illinois delegates which nominated

Lightfoot to be a member of the national committee.

She said she joined the party in 1956 at the urging of the FBI and had reported secretly on a number of Communist activities.

Her testimony wound up the government's case. Two witnesses had testified Wednesday that they also reported on Lightfoot's activities as paid agents of the FBI.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

44 CHICAGO TRIBUNE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Date: JANUARY 25, 1963  
Edition: 5:00 PM  
Author:  
Editor: JOE L. HARRIS  
Title: CLAUDE MACK LIGHT-  
FOOT

Character:

or

Classification: 61-867

Submitting Office: CHICAGO

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# I Feel Free Now, Says Unmasked Spy for the FBI

## Finds 'Nothing Glamorous' In Her Work with Reds

BY BETTY FLYNN

A garment worker who posed as a Communist for the FBI said she found no glamor in her 5½-year undercover career.

"Believe me, honey there's nothing glamorous about being with the Communist Party," said Lola Belle Holmes, of 6116 S. Kimbark, a handsome, gray-ing woman. At one time she was a member of the state board of the Illinois Communist Party.

"They don't want glamor there—and there's nothing glamorous about working for the FBI, either."

**MISS HOLMES** ended her job as secret FBI informant when she appeared as a surprise witness against Claude Mack Lightfoot before the U.S. Subversive Activities Control Board hearing that ended Thursday at the U.S. Customs House, 610 S. Canal.

Lightfoot, 53, of 3443 W. 12th Pl., is the admitted former head of the Communist Party in Illinois. The board is trying to determine whether Lightfoot should be required to register as a Communist under the Subversive Activities Control Act.

"I feel wonderful now. I feel free," said Miss Holmes. "It was difficult to sit silent, to keep quiet. My family didn't know. No one knew."

She said she had been ac-

tive in liberal-thinking groups for a long time, and had been an active member of Henry Wallace's breakaway Progressive Party in the late 1940s.

"I was in a lot of groups which might have been termed overly progressive," she said, "and knew some Communists."

Then the federal government contacted her, she said, and asked if she would work for them.

"I thought it over for a year and a half before I said I would do it," she said.

**MISS HOLMES** said it was not difficult to increase her contacts with party members. "I just started accepting invitations," she said. "Finally a woman friend asked me to join the party in the fall of 1957."

From that time until her dramatic entrance at the hearing Thursday, Miss Holmes filed reports to the FBI under the alias "Eve Coffey" on Communist activities in such groups as the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People, the Chicago School of Social Science, the Women Strike for Peace and the Negro American Labor Council.

Miss Holmes said she didn't

think she was ever directly suspected as an undercover agent.

"But they didn't feel I was adhering too well to the Marxist philosophy. They knew I never talked left-wing in my neighborhood or at work," she said.

She said one party member had asked for her expulsion at a December, 1962, caucus, but that Lightfoot had asked that she be allowed to continue attending meetings.

\* \* \*

**AS SHE** left the hearing room Thursday afternoon, several of Lightfoot's associates in the audience jeered at her, calling her a "traitor" and a "fink."

Mrs. Ruth Hyde of 5116 S. Kimbark, who broke into tears when Miss Holmes walked into the hearing room to testify, said she was shocked at her appearance. "I never thought she'd turn on the women working for peace," she said.

\* \* \*

**MISS HOLMES** was the second surprise witness called against Lightfoot. She said she and Lucius Armstrong, 62, of 7526 S. Ellis, who testified Wednesday, had been filing FBI reports on each other for years, neither one of them knowing the other was a spy.

Miss Holmes, a factory machine operator, said she thought her life would be different, now that her secret role as an FBI agent was ended.

"I was never friends with them," she said of her Communist associates. "But my life will definitely have to change socially and organizationally."

Mr. Tolson.....  
Mr. Belmont.....  
Mr. Mohr.....  
Mr. Casper.....  
Mr. Callahan.....  
Mr. Conrad.....  
Mr. DeLoach.....  
Mr. Evans.....  
Mr. Gale.....  
Mr. Rosen.....  
Mr. Sullivan.....  
Mr. Tavel.....  
Mr. Trotter.....  
Tele. Room.....  
Miss Holmes.....  
Miss Gandy.....

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Date: January 25, 1963

Edition: Red Dart

Author:

Editor: JOHN J. HANCOCK

Title: ...

Character:

or

Classification: 1-267

Submitting Office: CHICAGO

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Tolson ☒  
 Belmont ☒  
 Mohr ☒  
 Casper ☒  
 Callahan ☒  
 Conrad ☒  
 DeLoach ☒  
 Evans ☒  
 Gale ☒  
 Rosen ☒  
 Sullivan ☒  
 Tavel ☒  
 Trotter ☒  
 Tele. Room ☒  
 Holmes ☒  
 Gandy ☒

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(LIGHTFOOT)

CHICAGO--LOLA BELLA HOLMES REVEALED TODAY THAT SHE HAS LED  
 A DOUBLE LIFE FOR FIVE YEARS AS A COMMUNIST AND AN FBI UNDERCOVER  
 AGENT.

SHE CAME FORWARD AT A HEARING OF THE SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES  
 CONTROL BOARD TO TESTIFY AGAINST CLAUDE M. LIGHTFOOT, FORMER HEAD  
 OF THE ILLINOIS COMMUNIST PARTY.

AFTER TWO DAYS OF HEARINGS, THE BOARD TOOK UNDER ADVISEMENT THE  
 QUESTION OF WHETHER TO ORDER LIGHTFOOT TO REGISTER AS A FOREIGN  
 AGENT.

"I'M GLAD IT'S ALL OVER, BUT MOST OF ALL, I'M HAPPY TO BE FREE,"  
 THE YOUNG GARMENT WORKER TOLD REPORTERS AFTER THE HEARING.

THE SELENDER, WELL-DRESSED NEGRO WOMAN TALKED QUIETLY WITH  
 REPORTERS IN A HALL WHILE SEVERAL ONLOOKERS HURLED SUCH EPITHETS  
 AT HER AS "JUDAS ISCARIOT," "TRAITOR," "STOOL PIGEON" AND  
 "HANDKERCHIEF HEAD."

"YOU BELONG BACK ON THE PLANTATION ON A SLAVE PLATFORM!"  
 SHOUTED AN UNIDENTIFIED YOUNG NEGRO WOMAN WHO INSISTED SHE WAS NOT A  
 COMMUNIST.

THROUGHOUT THE TAUNTING, MISS HOLMES KEPT A SLIGHT SMILE ON HER  
 FACE. ONCE SHE REPLIED: "I'M GLAD I COULD DO IT FOR MY COUNTRY."

"ARE YOU AFRAID THERE MIGHT BE TROUBLE NOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN  
 EXPOSED?" A REPORTER ASKED.

"NO, I DON'T THINK SO," SHE ANSWERED.

"NO, I DON'T THINK SO," SHE ANSWERED. THEN SHE ADDED, "MAYBE  
 A LITTLE."

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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

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Holmes identified Lightfoot as a member of the national executive committee of the Communist party and also as a member of the Illinois state committee.

She testified that in June, 1961, when the Supreme court ruled that the Communist party must register with the government as an arm of the Soviet Union, Lightfoot told a meeting of the state board that the party would go underground.

"He said everything would remain the same," Miss Holmes testified, "except that the [Communist party] clubs would call themselves press committees as a cover."

#### Few Leaders on Surface

Lightfoot likened the party to an iceberg. Miss Holmes ex-

plained, with only a few leaders to remain visible on the surface.

An intelligent and articulate woman who has long been interested in racial equality, Miss Holmes told reporters after the hearing that she hesitated for more than a year before she finally accepted the assignment from the FBI to join the Communist party and report on its activities.

Why did she accept the hazardous assignment? Replied Miss Holmes:

"I felt the Communist party was a threat to our American democratic way of life. I decided the government came first."

Joining the party in late 1957 was no particular problem, said

the onetime University of Wisconsin student, because she had long been an "outspoken progressive."

"The Communists found me," she said.

Since she was a sewing machine operator in a garment factory, Miss Holmes said, the party assigned her to a "needle" club, a Communist cell whose handful of members were instructed to win as high office as possible in the garment workers union.

Asked what she considers to be the aim of the Communist party, Miss Holmes replied:

"To take over the government. They say among themselves they'll try a peaceful revolution first. If it isn't effective, then they'll use violence."

"The party's first allegiance is definitely to the Soviet Union. That is the only government they respect."

#### Design for Infiltration

Among the current plans of the party, said Miss Holmes, is to infiltrate as many organizations as possible, especially trade unions and Negro organizations.

In her testimony, Miss Holmes named the following organizations that the Communist party has attempted to influence or control:

The Negro American Labor council, the African-American Heritage association, Women Strike for Peace, Chicago School of Social Science, and the Midwest Committee for Protection of Foreign Born.



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Mr. Mohr .....  
Mr. Casper .....  
Mr. Callahan .....  
Mr. Conrad .....  
Mr. DeLoach .....  
Mr. Evans .....  
Mr. Gale .....  
Mr. Rosen .....  
Mr. Sullivan .....  
Mr. Tavel .....  
Mr. Trotter .....  
Tele. Room .....  
Miss Holmes .....  
Miss Gandy .....

## JOINS PARTY AS FBI AID, THEN TESTIFIES

# Unmasked Lola Tells How She Hoodwinked Reds

BY NORMAN GLUBOK



**LOLA BELLE HOLMES**  
"I feel wonderful . . ."

To her fellow members of the Communist party she was Miss Lola Belle Holmes, a loyal comrade who always could be counted on to follow party orders.

To the Federal Bureau of Investigation she was "Miss Eve Coffee," a loyal American willing to risk her life for her country.

The 6-year masquerade ended dramatically yesterday in a crowded hearing room on the 4th floor of the United States Custom house, 610 S. Canal st., when Miss Holmes, 38, strode into the room to testify for the government against Claude Mack Lightfoot, a national leader of the Communist party.

How does she feel now that

her life as Eve Coffee, an undercover agent for the FBI, is at an end? Says Miss Holmes, "I feel wonderful. I feel free."

Miss Holmes was the last of five witnesses called by the government in a 2-day hearing before the subversive activities control board on a petition by Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy asking that Lightfoot, 52, be required to register with the board as a member of the Communist party.

### Risks Heavy Penalty

If the board orders Lightfoot to register and he fails to do so, the law calls for a penalty of up to 5 years in prison for each day he remains unregistered.

In her testimony, Miss

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

CHICAGO'S AMERICAN  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Date: January 25, 1963  
Edition: Diamond Final

Author:

Editor: LUCAS GARDNER

Title:

Character:

or

Classification: 62-267

Submitting Office: CHICAGO

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## Woman Tells of Spying on Lightfoot for the FBI

A Chicago woman who testified that she had posed as a Communist to help the FBI was a witness yesterday against Claude M. Lightfoot at a hearing before a federal board which is seeking to force Lightfoot to register as a member of the Communist party.

The subversive activities control board, meeting in the United States custom house at 610 S. Canal st., took the case involving Lightfoot under advisement after hearing testimony by Miss Lola-belle Holmes, 38, a garment worker.

### Even Spied on Spy

Miss Holmes said she filed reports on Lightfoot and other party members, and even on Lucius Armstrong, 62, of 7526 Ellis av., who testified against Lightfoot Wednesday and disclosed that he, too, had posed as a Red to get information for the FBI. She said she understood Armstrong had filed reports on her, neither knowing the other's true identity.

She quoted Lightfoot as saying in 1961: "The party will not be liquidated. We will submerge and be an iceberg. Only the leadership will remain at the top."

She testified that she joined the Communist party in 1956 at the request of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and that she was a member of the state council which in 1959 sent Lightfoot to the convention.

### Tells 1961 Address

She testified that Lightfoot made his "iceberg" statement in addressing an emergency meeting of Illinois and Chicago area communist leaders in June 1961. This was shortly after a Supreme court upheld

the internal security [McCar-ron] act.

Miss Holmes said that her reports included information on activities of Communists working in six organizations: the Negro-American Labor council, the Chicago School of Social Sciences, the Modern Bookstore, Women Strike for Peace, Midwest Council for the Protection of the Foreign Born, and the Afro-American Heritage association.

Samuel K. Davis, midwest correspondent for the Worker, the communist newspaper, and others, including a woman, shouted insults at her as she left the hearing room. She was guarded by an FBI agent and two Chicago detectives.

"I expect to get more of this treatment, but it's worth it," said Miss Holmes. "It is the price of freedom."

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

10 CHICAGO DAILY  
TRIBUNE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
JUNE 25, 1963  
Date: 3 30 PM 1963  
Edition:  
Author: F. E. TOLSON  
Editor:  
Title: CLAUDE MACK LIGHT-  
FOOT  
Character:  
or 61-867  
Classification:  
Submitting Office:

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184 FEB 7 1963

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